

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Meet an Iowa Birder—Lee Schoenewe

Ed Thelen

When birders talk about birding in northwestern Iowa, the name Lee Schoenewe is sure to come up. Affectionately known as the “Birdman of Spencer,” Lee has dedicated much of his time and energy to helping birds and the environment. Lee was born on 27 August 1954 in Everly, a small prairie town in northwestern Iowa. Lee graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Science in economics with minors in math and business admin-



Lee Schoenewe

istration. It was at USD where Lee met his wife Nancy Parlman, to whom he's been married 31 years. Lee and Nancy moved to Spencer in 1984 when Lee was transferred as an officer at Northwest Federal Savings Bank. Lee is currently Senior Credit Risk Officer for Northwest Financial Corporation. Lee credits Nancy (who is an excellent birder—and has two of the best ears I know for birds) for introducing him to birding. Nancy talked him into attending a meeting of the Audubon Club in Spirit Lake in 1979. The following spring they went on a hike at the Kettleson-Hogsback area and Lee remembers finding 54 species of birds that day, including having some great looks at a male Magnolia Warbler. After that, Lee said he was hooked. Little did Nancy know what she had unleashed.

When it comes to birding and the environment, Lee is a shaker and a doer. He is a strong advocate for the environment and dedicates much time and energy to that cause. Lee is past president, board member, and field trip chair for the Prairie Lakes Audubon Chapter, chair of the Clay County Conservation Board, active at the state level and county chair of Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP), a program in Iowa that invests in the enhancement and protection of the state's natural and cultural resources. Lee is also a trustee for the Nature Conservancy in Iowa, and helps the DNR by volunteering to survey water birds for the DNR shallow lakes project.

Early on, Lee realized habitat is the key determinant in the success of bird species and has given his time and money to help organizations such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks

Unlimited, and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Lee's other activities include compiling the Spirit Lake Christmas Bird Count (CBC) since the mid-1990s, contributing to the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlases, and contributing regularly to the field reports for *Iowa Bird Life*, the quarterly journal of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Lee has written numerous articles about birds for a number of publications and also has been the subject of articles about his birding experiences.

Lee has given many talks about birds and led numerous field trips for various local groups. For years, Lee has led bird hikes for third graders in Spencer at Oneota Park in May, and the thank-you notes he receives from these kids are a highlight of his year. Lee has helped at the Outdoor Classroom for all sixth graders in Clay County for many years also. Lee believes that helping young people acquire some sense of the natural world around us is as important as anything one can do in this life and he is always rewarded when he performs this service.

Lee said he first joined the IOU in the late 1980s when Doug Harr asked him to fill out a documentation form after he and Nancy found some Sandhill Cranes on the Spirit Lake CBC. Lee also served on the Records Committee for the IOU and had the dubious distinction of voting to overturn his own accepted record of the first Sprague's Pipit in Iowa. It was a February sighting and looking back on it he could not be sure that that bird wasn't a Smith's Longspur. At the time, Lee had no experience with either species.

When I asked Lee what the best bird he ever found was—he had a great answer—"the best bird is the one I am looking at right now!" Lee has traveled near and far in his birding activities. Some of the places he enjoys visiting on a regular basis are the Black Hills and southeastern Arizona. Lee has also been to Texas, Florida, and the Big Woods in Arkansas when he joined some other Nature Conservancy birders in a quest for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Although Lee enjoys birding out of state, he considers Emmet, Clay, Dickinson, O'Brien, and Palo Alto counties to be his backyard and couldn't be happier with the varied habitats within an easy drive of his home. If he had to pick his favorite he would chose Trumbull Lake and Spirit Lake as two of the better spots in his backyard.

Like many birders, Lee has many lists. His life list is 470 and he said he needs an Alaska or pelagic trip to get over 500. His Iowa list is at 332 and he has over 200 birds in each of the five counties in northwestern Iowa that he frequently birds. His backyard list is 177, and if you stop by his house in May during the warbler migration, you might spot Lee up on the roof in his lawn chair getting a birds-eye view of a warbler wave.

A hobby that Lee picked up related to his birding activities is collecting duck and shorebird decoys. Recently Lee has expanded this hobby to include creating his own bird carvings and paintings. He buys inexpensive bird forms made by someone else and then reworks them, creating the *real* bird Lee sees in the form. His style is folk artsy and he tries to create the essence of a bird rather than an exact replica. Searching for the raw materials for his projects also adds to the enjoyment of this interesting hobby.

Lee and I have had many great birding adventures. I always like getting a call from Lee. It usually means Lee has found a rare bird and wants me to see it or he wants to go birding, which is just as good because a day birding with Lee will usually produce some great birds.

Thousands of people should thank Nancy for getting Lee into birding. Many people

have benefited from Lee's involvement in birding and the environment. His ever-present, Indiana Jones-style hat is Lee's trademark as he leads bird hikes on the prairies and wetlands of northwestern Iowa. The lucky birder that joins one of Lee's field trips is in for a treat. Not only will Lee aptly point out the different bird species, he will also inform participants of the various habitats and ecosystems of the area. As Charlene Elyea (naturalist for O'Brien County) says, "a day birding with Lee is magical—you always learn something." If you get a chance to bird with Lee, don't pass it up; it will be well worth your while and maybe you too will experience the magic of Lee Schoenewe.

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Field Reports—Summer 2008

James J. Dinsmore

WEATHER

Excessive precipitation dominated June weather. Rainfall averaged 8.86 inches, 4.22 above normal and the second wettest June in 136 years of records. It was the sixth wettest month on record for Iowa. Dorchester in northeastern Iowa and Massena in the southwest both had just over 15 inches of rainfall. Sioux City with 3.35 inches (0.26 inches below normal) was the dry spot. June temperatures were moderate and averaged 69.7, which is 0.1 degrees F below normal. The first half of the month was about 2 degrees above normal and the second half about 2 degrees below normal. Daytime highs reached the 90s on only three days with a high of 92 on 7 June in Onawa and Little Sioux, the lowest June maximum since 1928. Temperature lows were 45 on 2 and 17 June in Cresco and Chariton, the highest June minimum since 1932. The temperature range for June was only 47 degrees, the lowest on record.

It was Iowa's wettest July since 1993 with



James J. Dinsmore

a statewide average of 5.88 inches of rainfall. Extremes were 1.66 inches at Clarinda and 12.81 at Lake Rathbun. Creston received 8.18 inches of rainfall on 24 July. July temperatures averaged 73.8, matching the long-term average for the month. Temperatures fluctuated little with most daily averages within 5 degrees of their long-term average. Temperature extremes were 49 at Sibley on 3 July and 95 at several stations. The temperature range (46 degrees) was the second smallest on record for July.

Excessive precipitation has dominated Iowa's weather this year. Rainfall totaled 30.18 inches from January through July, almost 10 inches above normal and second only to the almost 33 inches that fell in 1993. The heavy snowfall earlier in the year combined with the cool weather and then excessive rainfall, especially in late May and early June, led to record-setting flooding in much of eastern Iowa. Sections of the Iowa, Cedar, and Des Moines rivers, and the Mississippi River in southeastern Iowa were especially hard hit with extensive areas of lowlands flooded. Cedar Rapids, where the Cedar River peaked on 13 June at 19 feet above flood stage, was perhaps the worst hit. Overall, damage to homes, roads, bridges, agricultural lands, and parks totaled in the billions of dollars. In addition, Iowa experienced much other extreme weather with all but two counties having some type of non-flooding severe weather.

BIRDS OF SUMMER

Habitat Conditions

The excessive rainfall and resultant flooding probably had several serious effects on Iowa's birds. Most obvious is the direct loss of the nests of many birds due to the heavy rainfall in the heart of the nesting season. The nests of many ground-nesting species such as Ring-necked Pheasant and Wild Turkey were flooded. Even the young Ospreys in a nest atop a tall dead tree at Jester Park in Polk County had to be moved as flood waters neared and eventually covered the nest with several feet of water. Typically, once the floodwaters recede, those areas are largely barren of food for any birds whose nests survived the flooding. Many of those nests probably failed this year.

A second issue that threatened birds nesting in grasslands arose this summer. In the aftermath of the flood, several state officials attempted to open some state lands and lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to grazing and haying. Such activities undoubtedly would have had adverse effects on many late nests of grassland birds, including renests by birds whose first nests had failed in the June downpours. Eventually some public lands were opened to haying and grazing but CRP lands were not opened until early August and then only to grazing.

Changes in agricultural land use and federal policies continue to have major effects on Iowa's landscape. The newly approved Farm Bill, although continuing to provide some support for CRP, along with the current high prices for corn, threaten to convert thousands of acres of Iowa land from grassland cover to row-crop agriculture in the near future. About 230 square miles of Iowa land was taken out of the federal CRP in September 2007 and about 200 more will probably be removed in fall 2008. Some fear that CRP and similar programs, which since 1985 have provided tens of thousands of acres of grassland cover in Iowa, will largely disappear in the next few years, much like the Soil Bank program did in the 1960s.

Not all of the habitat news was negative. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources continued to develop Bird Conservation Areas (BCA), large blocks of habitat that should be large enough to support sustainable populations of birds and other wildlife. Since summer 2007, two more BCAs have been dedicated (Eagle Lake, Wapsipinicon River), bringing the total in Iowa to 12, with more planned.

Breeding Species

With the start of Iowa's second breeding bird atlas, many birders were in the field this summer looking specifically for nesting species. Among the better finds this summer were the second ever reports of nesting White-faced Ibis and American White Pelican in Iowa. Other good finds included nesting Western Grebes, Bewick's Wren nesting away from the usual Argyle junkyard, two Barn Owl nests, nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches for the third year in the last four, and nesting Clay-colored Sparrows and Black-billed Magpies. Henslow's Sparrows again were reported from numerous sites, indicating that they are much more common than thought just a few years ago. The appearance of Red Crossbills at three sites this summer raises the question of whether they attempted to nest somewhere in Iowa. Bald Eagles and Sandhill Cranes both seemed to have good years and to be gradually adding new nesting sites. Among other species, Trumpeter Swan, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcon all had reasonably good nesting success this summer with several new sites occupied by each. Greater Prairie-Chickens at Kellerton Grasslands in southern Iowa produced at least two broods.

All reports of Least Tern and Piping Plover were from Council Bluffs where a record number of Least Tern nests were found in June although success of those birds is uncertain. In northern Iowa, Iowa's only Ring-billed Gull colony apparently produced no young. No one reported nesting Forster's Terns but Black Tern nests were found at two sites.

Migrants

Spring migration managed to hang on for at least one day of June with a major fall-out of migrants on 1 June, especially at and near Algona. Counts of 18 Swainson's Thrushes and 39 Tennessee Warblers were phenomenal for that date. Add in early-June reports for another ten species of warblers, four species of flycatchers, and Iowa's first summer Ruby-crowned Kinglet in decades, and it was one of the best early Junes for late spring migrants in recent memory. In addition, for the second straight year, a few late migrating Broad-winged Hawks were detected, this time at Algona. Is this a regular event that has just been overlooked in the past? In contrast to the passerines, only a few late shorebirds were found in early June. Southbound migrants showed up as scheduled with a few shorebirds in late June and more in July along with the usual gulls, terns, and American White Pelicans. However, shorebird diversity was low, and several less-common species that often occur were missing this summer.

Unusual Species

This was one of the best summers in recent years for rare species. Three Accidental species (Yellow-billed Loon, Glossy Ibis, and Painted Bunting) and four Casual species (Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Tricolored Heron, Black Vulture, and Laughing Gull) were

found this summer. Add in several reports of Black-necked Stilts and Spirit Lake's reliable Black-headed Gull, and it was a banner season for rarities. The place to be was Forney Lake after about 10 July. Besides the Glossy Ibis and nesting White-faced Ibis, several Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons and hundreds of Cattle Egrets roosting nightly made for a great show. Some observers were able to find 11 or 12 species of herons and ibis in an evening, a seldom-observed event for Iowa. With all of these rarities, it was easy to overlook some other really good finds including Western Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White-winged Dove, Barn Owl, Black-billed Magpie, Bewick's Wren, and Red Crossbill.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **A** = area, **alt** = alternate (plumage), **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **Pre** = preserve, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **se half** = diagonal se half, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **Twp** = township, **WA** = wildlife area, **WMA** = Wildlife Management Area, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **yg** = young.

Key to maps: shading = species reported in county. In most cases, the species was probably nesting in the county although evidence was only presented in a few cases.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 2 on 10 Jun at Beaman *Grundy* (*MPR) constituted Iowa's 4th summer record and add to the growing presence of this species in Iowa.

Greater White-fronted Goose: All: singles 12 Jun at Waubonsie *SP Fremont* (LJP, BKP) and 14 Jun at Dean A *Appanoose* (RLC).

Snow Goose: Except for 2 on 27 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD), all were singles, in *Dickinson*, *Greene*, *Polk*, and *Union* (MCK, SJD, JB, JG).

Ross's Goose: All: 1 on 12 Jul at Summit L *Union* (SJD, JG) is the first summer record since 2002.

Trumpeter Swan: Preliminary data indicated at least 15 successful and 6 unsuccessful nests this year with about 25 successful nests expected to be found eventually. Several nests, especially in n-cen Iowa, were flooded out (DH).

Gadwall: A brood 21 Jul near Polk City *Polk* (SJD) was south of where expected. Besides 2 on 14 Jun at Dean A *Appanoose* (RLC), others were in *Franklin*, *Greene*, and *Kossuth*, (SJD, MCK) where expected.

Blue-winged Teal: Broods in *Pocahontas* (JG) and *Story* (HZ) were south of its usual breeding range.

Northern Shoveler: More reports than usual this summer. Broods in *Boone*, *Franklin*, and *Greene* (LGD, SJD) were somewhat south of its normal nesting range. One on 14 Jun at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC) was south of where expected.

Northern Pintail: Broods were found 19 Jun near Hanlonton *Sl Worth* (SJD), 23 Jul at Union *Sl NWR Kossuth* (MCK), and 27 Jul near Gilmore City *Pocahontas* (SJD, JG). Two 4 Jun at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC) were south of its usual range.

Green-winged Teal: Most: 21 on 6 Jul on flooded fields in *Franklin* (SJD), a high summer count for this species. Singles 14 Jun at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC) and

29 Jun in the Iowa River Corridor *Iowa* (SJD, JG) and a brood 6 Jul at Morse L WPA *Wright* (SJD) were south of where usually found. Elsewhere, up to 7 were in *Boone*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Greene*, *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, *Pocahontas*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Worth* (m.ob.).

Canvasback: All: 2 males 7 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Redhead: Reported from 8 counties, more than usual. An amazing 141 on 27 Jun at Diamond L *Dickinson* (SJD) seems to be a record summer count. Broods were found at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (SSP) and Grover's L and Jemmerson Sl *Dickinson* (SJD) where expected.

Ring-necked Duck: All: 5 on 7 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 1 on 7 Jun at Coulter M *Franklin* (JG), and 4 on 25 Jun at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC).

Lesser Scaup: All: 4 on 7 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 1 on 10 Jun at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD), 1 on 28 Jun at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* (JG), and 1 on 29 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JG, SJD).

Bufflehead: All: 1 on 4 Jun at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

Hooded Merganser: Broods were found in *Appanoose*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.).

Common Merganser: All: a male on 1, 9 Jun s of *Boone* *Boone* (Jim Moreland fide SJD).

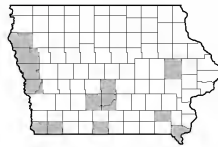
Ruddy Duck: More reports than usual. The 100 on 1 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) is an amazing count for summer. Broods were found at Coulter M *Franklin* (SJD), Crystal Hills WA *Hancock* (RGo), and near *Polk* City *Polk* (SJD).

Gray Partridge: All reports came from 8 counties extending north from *Boone* to *Kossuth* and *Worth* (m.ob.). Broods were reported in *Boone*, *Kossuth*, and *Worth* (LGD, MCK, SSP).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Pheasant numbers were already down with the estimated fall 2007 hunting kill among the lowest in 50 years. With the recent hard winter, wet summer, and continuing loss of CRP lands, I suspect that pheasants will become more difficult to find in parts of Iowa.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: At least 2 broods were produced at Kellerton Grasslands *Ringgold*; one was seen near the viewing platform and a road-killed yg found about a mile away seemed to be from a different brood (TH, Chad Paup fide JJD).

Northern Bobwhite: Found in 13 counties, mostly in s Iowa except in the west where it was found north to *Plymouth*.



YELLOW-BILLED LOON: 1 photographed 15 Jul on a farm pond in n *Tama* and found dead there 19 Jul (Sean Williams/Kevin Williams fide JJD) is Iowa's 4th record and the first for summer.

Common Loon: All: 1 or 2 on 10, 15 Jun, 27 Jul at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD, JG, AB), 4 on 26 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD), and 1 on 2 Jul at Crystal L *Hancock* (RGo).

Pied-billed Grebe: Three nests at Dean A *Appanoose* (RLC) were south of where they usually nest. Elsewhere, broods or nests were in *Boone*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Fremont*, and *Story* (LGD, SSP, JG, MPr, HZ).

Red-necked Grebe: All: 1 on 27 Jun at Grover's L *Dickinson* (SJD) and 2 there 21 Jul (KDy).

Eared Grebe: All: 2 on 19 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) and 3 on 19 Jun at Coulter M *Franklin* (SJD).

Western Grebe: Seen throughout June and July at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* with a peak of 15 on 4 Jul (MCK, CJF). On 30 Jul 5 adults were seen carrying 4 chicks indi-

cating at least several nests hatched young, Iowa's first nesting record since 2002. Elsewhere 2 on 2 Jun in *Sioux* (GBr), 1 at Cedar L *Linn* 22–29 Jun (DP, BSc, m.ob.) and 1 on 2 Jul at Crystal Hills WA *Hancock* (RGo) is typical of the most summers when a few show up somewhere in the state.

American White Pelican: Groups of 18 on 14 Jun at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (BE), 21 on 23 Jun at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV), 24 on 25 Jun at Dean A *Appanoose* (RLC) were probably summering. The 75 on 9 Jul over Ames *Story* (HZ), 185 on 13 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), and 315 on 14 Jul at Johnston *Polk* (SJD) were all probably early migrants. The 540 on 20 Jul at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* (JG) were the most. Pelicans nested again on islands in the Mississippi R in *Clinton* and produced about 100 young (RE, BEh). Pelicans again attempted to nest on West Swan L *Emmet* but were unsuccessful (DCH, BEh).

Double-crested Cormorant: 4 on 1 Jun near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP) may have been late migrants. The 49 on 19 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 30 on 21 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB), and 67 on 27 Jun at West Swan L *Emmet* (SJD) probably were summering. Cormorants nested on islands in the Mississippi R in *Clinton* (RE, BEh).

American Bittern: A nest was found 9 Jul at Panicum Prairie *Worth* (SSP). One or 2 were found in *Boone*, *Dickinson*, *Fremont*, *Hancock*, *Johnson*, *Polk*, and *Story* (m.ob.).

Least Bittern: From 1–3 were reported at wetlands in 12 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob.). By far the most was 20 on 6 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* where a nest was active 27 Jul (KDy).

Great Blue Heron: High counts included 80 on 5 Jul along the Iowa R *Johnson* (DP) and 60 on 11 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy).

Great Egret: With all of the flooded fields, this species was encountered throughout Iowa. High counts included 106 on 14 Jun at Chichaqua A *Polk* (BE), 186 on 5 Jul e of Des Moines *Polk* (JG), 53 on 6 Jul at Morse Lake WPA *Wright* (SJD), and 133 on 12 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (SJD, JG). No one mentioned evidence of nesting.

Snowy Egret: All: 1 on 29 Jun near Chelsea *Tama* (SJD, JG), as many as 5 on 7–30 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy, JG, SJD, m.ob.), and 1 on 28 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP).

Little Blue Heron: The 8 on 7 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy) were followed by repeated sightings through 30 Jul of up to 8 there and at nearby Waubonsie WA *Fremont* (KDy, SJD, JG, m.ob.). A “calico” bird was seen 9 Jul (KDy).

TRICOLORED HERON: 1 on 11 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (*KDy) was Iowa's 6th record and the first for summer.

Cattle Egret: Cattle Egrets seemed to be everywhere. A few found in *Fremont* in early July increased to a count of 817 on 9 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy). Birds roosted there and foraged in nearby fields through the end of July with a high count of 1,190 on 12 Jul (SJD, JG, KDy), the most ever reported in Iowa. Elsewhere, there were reports of as many as 13 in *Dallas*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, *Story*, *Tama*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.). Presumably the birds came from flooded out-of-state colonies but there was no indication of nesting in Iowa.

Green Heron: 2 nests were found at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy) and a brood was at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: At Forney L *Fremont* birds found 7 Jul (KDy) were seen through 30 Jul with a high count of 77 on 12 Jul (SJD, JG, m.ob.). Nests with eggs and young were documented, one of the most successful nestings by this species

in Iowa in several decades. Elsewhere, from 1–8 were found in *Dickinson*, *Kossuth*, *Linn*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Wright* (m.ob.), but nesting was not noted.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Up to 7 including as many as 4 juv from 8–30 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy, SJD, JG, m.ob.). Elsewhere, 1 was at Sycamore Access *Polk* 10 Jul (SJD) and 5 were at Colyn A *Lucas* 16 Jul (AB).

GLOSSY IBIS: 1 on 29 Jun near Chelsea *Tama* (*SJD-ph, *JG) is Iowa's 6th record and the first for summer. At Forney L *Fremont*, at least 1 was seen 9 Jul (KDy*) and 12 Jul (*SJD, *JG-ph) through 30 Jul, Iowa's 7th record.

White-faced Ibis: All reports were from Forney L *Fremont* where they were found 3 Jul (KDy). On 8 Jul about 20+ pairs and nests with young were located there (KDy), Iowa's second report of nesting. The first was in 1986. The high count was 53 on 12 Jul (KDy, SJD, JG).

BLACK VULTURE: 1 on 12 Jul at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (*CF) was Iowa's 7th record and the first for summer.

Turkey Vulture: Counts of birds leaving roosts included 122 on 24 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 176 on 20 Jul at Lake Wapello SP *Davis* (JG), and 219 on 23 Jul at Red Rock Res (SJD). A nest was found in *Warren* (JSi).

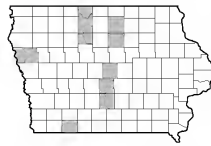
Osprey: Osprey had a great summer. Eleven nests were active with 8 successful (Don Williams L *Boone*, Saylorville Res, Coralville Res–3 nests, Cedar Falls, Sioux City, Maffitt Res *Dallas*) and 3 unsuccessful (*Linn*–2 nests and Rathbun Res) (PS). In addition, 19 young were released at five sites (Spirit Lake, Clear Lake, Dubuque, Whitewrock Conservancy *Guthrie*, and Elk Rock SP *Marion*) (PSc). Besides the nesting pairs, singles were noted in *Benton*, *Story*, *Webster*, and *Wright* (SJD, WO), typical of summer.

Mississippi Kite: 1 on 5 Jun at Ames *Story* (Ross Conover fide SJD), 1 or 2 on 9, 22, 26 Jun, 3 Jul in Des Moines *Polk* (JB, JG, AB), and 1 on 16 Jun in Indianola *Warren* (JSi).

Bald Eagle: Active eagle nests totaled about 210, the same as last year. Nests were documented in *Davis* and *Pottawattamie*, bringing the total to 83 counties with known nests (BEh).

Northern Harrier: 1 on 2 Jun with a group of broad-wingeds near Algona *Kossuth* seemed to be migrating (MCK). The only nest reported was 14 Jun at Panicum Prairie Worth (SSP). One or 2 were found in *Butler*, *Dallas*, *Fremont*, *Howard*, *Humboldt*, *Jasper*, *Kossuth*, *Lucas*, *Polk*, and *Scott* (m.ob.), some of which were probably nesting.

Cooper's Hawk: Nests were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Franklin*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.).



Red-shouldered Hawk: Fledglings were noted at five different sites in *Lucas* (AB), suggesting multiple nests there. Singles in *Appanoose*, *Dallas*, and *Polk* (RLC, TLa, SJD) may also have been nesting.

Broad-winged Hawk: The 15 seen 2 Jun circling and then heading north near Algona *Kossuth* (MCK) provide evidence of late migration for the second consecutive year. The only nest was in *Lucas* (AB) but 1 or 2 found in *Clarke*, *Guthrie*, *Hamilton*, *Henry*, *Iowa*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Story*, and *Warren* (m.ob.), all probably were at nesting sites.

Peregrine Falcon: Thirteen nests were active with 8 successful and producing 17 yg (Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Chillicothe, Davenport, Des Moines–2 nests, *Louisa*, Waukon Junction) and 5 unsuccessful (*Clinton*, *Lansing*, *McGregor*, and 2 of 3

nest at Davenport), somewhat lower production than in 2007 (PSc, BEh).

Virginia Rail: All: 1–3 in *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Franklin*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, and *Worth* (m.ob.), about typical for summer.

Sora: 1 or 2 were found in 8 counties south to *Johnson* and *Fremont* (m.ob.). Ten on 10 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy) were the most.

Common Moorhen: 1 on 8 Jun at Harrier M *Boone* (LGD), 2 on 14 Jun at Dean A *Appanoose* (RLC), 3 pairs 7, 12 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy, JG, SJD), 1 or 2 on 22 Jun, 3, 4 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD, JG), and 1 on 26 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BSc), were more than most recent years.

American Coot: Nests or broods were found in *Boone*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Fremont*, and *Story* (m.ob.).

Sandhill Crane: Broods were noted in *Tama* (JG, SJD) and *Winneshiek* (2 broods, DC), both known nesting sites.

American Golden-Plover: All: 2 on 2 Jul near Hamburg *Fremont* (KDy) and 1 alt 15 Jul in *O'Brien* (Jason Thraen fide SJD).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 1 on 13 Jul near Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK). Only six reports, mostly singles.

Piping Plover: Reports included 7 adults and 2 broods 10 Jun at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD) and 4 adults and 1 fledgling there 15 Jun (JG).

Killdeer: High counts were 125 on 6 Jul at Grand Ave Sod Farm *Dallas* (JB) and 256 on 14 Jul at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (SJD).

Black-necked Stilt: Two on 22 Jun at Chichaqua A *Polk* (Loren Lown fide Jane Clark) were the first summer report since 2004. Other reports were 2 on 6 Jul near Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (RGo, RIA, PHA) and 3 on 21 Jul at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (CJF).

Spotted Sandpiper: Broods were

found at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), Gabrielson WMA *Hancock* (SSP), and near Gilmore City *Pocahontas* (JG, SJD). Eleven birds 14 Jul at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (SJD) were the most.

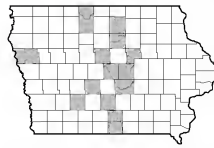
Solitary Sandpiper: First: 1 on 29 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP). Most: 62 on 19 Jul at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (JG).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 1 on 9 Jul at Grand Ave Sod Farm *Dallas* (JB, JG). Most: 6 on 12 Jul in *Fremont* (SJD).

Willet: All: 34 on 21 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD)

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 1 on 24 Jun at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (SJD). Most: 144 on 13 Jul near Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) and 188 on 27 Jul near Harrier M *Boone* (SJD, JG).

Upland Sandpiper: Up to 4 were found in 14 counties, mostly in cen Iowa. The only brood was in *Franklin* (JG).



Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 8 on 4 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC). First: 2 on 12 Jul at River-ton WA *Fremont* (JG, SJD). Most: 28 on 19 Jul at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (JG).

Least Sandpiper: First: 1 on 29 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP). Most: 228 on 13 Jul near Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK)

White-rumped Sandpiper: Most: 76 on 2 Jun in *Fremont* (KDy). Last: 18 on 7 Jun near Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Baird's Sandpiper: First and most: 5 on 13 Jul near Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 2 on 7 Jun at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (JG). First: 1 on 4 Jul at Farragut *Fremont* (JG). Most: 300 on 19 Jul at Snake Creek M *Greene* (JG).

Dunlin: Last: 2 on 4 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 2 on 6 Jul

near Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). Most: 65 on 19 Jul at Diamond L *Dickinson* (MCK).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: All: 14 on 30 Jul at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 1 on 4 Jul near Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK). Most: 8 on 19 Jul at Snake Creek M *Greene* (JG).

Wilson's Snipe: 1 displaying 14 Jun at Panicum Prairie Worth (SSP), 1 on 1 Jul at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), 2 on 6 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD), 2 on 6 Jul at Lower Morse L WPA *Wright* (SJD), and 1 on 19 Jul near Harrier M *Boone* (LGD) were all suggestive of nesting birds.

American Woodcock: All: 1 on 4 Jul at Bailey WA *Jasper* (KVS),

Wilson's Phalarope: A juv 6 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD), 1 juv 16 Jul at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (SJD), 2 juv 16, 23 Jul at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), and 3 juv 27 Jul near Harrier M *Boone* (JG, SJD) all probably were local breeders. Singles 20 Jul in *Johnson* (DP), 27 Jul in *Pocahontas* (JG), and 30 Jul at Hendrickson M *Story* (MPr) were probably early migrants.

LAUGHING GULL: 1 alt adult 11 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD-ph, *JG-ph) was present almost daily through 19 Jul (*JB, *RIA, m.ob.).

Franklin's Gull: The 28 on 7 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 3 on 10 Jun in *Adair* (DTh), and 34 on 10 Jun at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD) were probably late migrants. The 730 on 21 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD) and 512 on 6 Jul at Diamond L *Dickinson* (ETh) are high counts for mid-summer. Singles in late June/July in *Iowa*, *Kossuth*, and *Marion* (SJD, JG, MCK) may have summered in Iowa.

Black-headed Gull: 1 in alt plumage,

presumably the same one seen since the late 1990s, was found 6 Jul at Diamond L *Dickinson* (ETh) and 21 Jul at its usual haunts on the n end of Spirit L *Dickinson* (KDy).

Ring-billed Gull: The nesting colony at Meinking M *Dickinson*, which was active in May (Kenne 2008), was deserted on 25 Jun (SJD). Low water levels may have led to predation of the nests. On 26 Jun, 733 were found nearby in *Dickinson* (SJD), probably including birds from that colony. The 496 on 23 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) was the high count of southbound birds. Up to 13 were found in June/early July in *Adams*, *Kossuth*, *Story*, and *Tama* (JG, MCK, HZ).

Herring Gull: All: a fourth-year alt bird 26 Jul at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD) and an adult 29 Jul near Braddyville *Page* (DE).

Least Tern: On 10 Jun there were 31 adults and 17 nests at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (SJD) but by 15 Jun, only 7 adults and 3 first-year birds were present (JG). Singles 8 Jul at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (SJD) and 12 Jul at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD, JG) were typical of post-breeding birds. Of 15 on 27 Jul at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie*, one was still on a nest (AB).

Caspian Tern: Postbreeders were mostly at the large reservoirs, with 3 on 10 Jul at Riverton A *Fremont* (MPr), 3 on 11 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 12 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP), 2 on 20 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB), 3 on 20 Jul along the Des Moines R *Marion* (JG), and 10 on 21 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Black Tern: Early and mid-Jun reports such as 89 on 3 Jun at Riverton A *Fremont* (KDy), 11 on 7 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), and 16 on 15 Jun at Willow Sl Mills (JG) were probably migrants. Ten on 19 Jun at Union Sl NWR (MCK), 12 on 27 Jun, 9 Jul at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (JB, CJF), and ca 40 each 27 Jun at Diamond L and

Grover's L *Dickinson* (SJD) may have been nesting, but the only nests reported were 27 Jun at Grover's L (SJD) and 29 Jun near Teal Basin *Cerro Gordo* (SSP). Six on 21 Jul at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) must have been southbound.

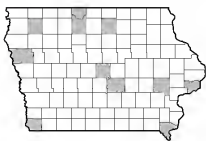
Common Tern: All: 1 in basic plumage on 29 Jun in the Iowa River Corridor *Iowa* (SJD, JG-details), 3 on 14 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (RIA, PHA), and 1 in basic plumage 18 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG-details) were typical of recent summers.

Forster's Tern: The usual scattered individuals in N Iowa; e.g., 7, 19 Jun, 13 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) and 7 Jul at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), showed no hint of nesting. Apparent postbreeding birds included singles 22 Jun at Cedar L *Linn* (DP) and 27 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP), and 7 each 29 Jun at the Iowa River Corridor *Iowa* (JG) and 26 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1 or 2 on 15 Jun in Waukon *Allamakee* (SJD), 22 Jun in *Page* (KVS), 4 Jul in New Market *Taylor* (JG), and 19 Jul at Grafton *Worth* (RGo) seem to represent new county records.

White-winged Dove: Singles 4–6 Jun at Adel *Dallas* (*TLA-ph), 6 Jun near Davis City *Decatur* (JRL), and 12, 13 Jun at Leon *Decatur* (MT) add to the growing presence of this dove in Iowa.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Underreported. 1–4 were found in 13 counties (m.ob.).



Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 or 2 were found in 10 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob.).

Barn Owl: Besides 1 on 29 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (SJD, JG), two nests were found: near Chariton *Lucas* (Kristin Kuenen fide BEh) and in *Carroll* (Matt Wetrich fide BEh).

Chuck-will's-widow: All: 2 on 22 Jun at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (DT, RLC), 1 on 28, 30 Jun at Stephens SF Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (DP, RIA, PHA), and 1 on 9, 12 Jul near Green Hollow WA *Fremont* (KDy, JG, SJD).

Whip-poor-will: Up to 8 were found in *Appanoose*, *Fremont*, and *Lucas* (RLC, JG, DP), all expected locations.

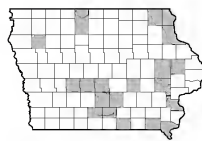
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: 1 on 15 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (SJD) and 1 on 28 Jun at Fountain Springs P *Delaware* (BSc).

Pileated Woodpecker: The only report was from Princeton WA *Scott* (WMZ), well within its expected range.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: All: singles 2 Jun at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (MPr), 5 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 8 Jun in *Algona Kossuth* (MCK).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Other than 1 on 1 Jun at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (DP), all reports were from *Kossuth* with 5 on 4 Jun and 1 on 8 Jun in *Algona* (MCK).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reported from 20 counties, all in its usual range in the se half of Iowa (m.ob.) except for reports from *Cherokee* and *Kossuth* (SJD, MCK).



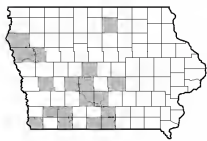
Alder Flycatcher: Most reports were from *Kossuth* with an amazing 18 on 1 Jun (MCK) and 1 on 9 Jun at A.A. Call SP (MCK). Last: 1 on 16 Jun at Lansing WA *Allamakee* (SJD-details) [2nd latest]. Other early June reports were from *Linn*, *Marshall*, *Polk*, and *Story* (DP, MPr, JB, JG, WO).

Willow Flycatcher: Reported from 14 counties across much of Iowa (m.ob.). Most: 12 on 26 Jul at Goose L *Clinton* (BSc) and 11 on 21 Jun at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD).

Least Flycatcher: The 16 on 1 Jun in

Kossuth, 3 there 4 Jun (MCK), and singles on 1 Jun at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MPR) and 2 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), all were probably late migrants. One 19 Jun at Sny Magill WA *Clayton* (DK) may have been nesting.

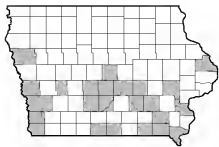
Western Kingbird: Besides the usual birds in w Iowa, 1 was in *Dallas* 4 Jun (TLA) and a nest was at Terra P *Polk* (JG).



Loggerhead

Shrike: Reported from 18 counties (m.ob.) but none in the e third of Iowa.

White-eyed Vireo: 1 or 2 were found in *Decatur*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Polk*, and *Warren* (JRL, CRE, BSc, SJD, JG, JSi), all where it is expected.



Bell's Vireo:

Reported from 24 counties, none in the n third of the state (m.ob.). The most was 12 in s *Wayne* (AB).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Up to 5 were found in 15 counties across all except nw and ne Iowa (m.ob.). Nests were found in *Franklin* (SSP) and *Fremont* (KDy).

Blue-headed Vireo: A male singing 3 Jul near Washington *Washington* (*DW) was Iowa's 5th recent summer record. Curiously, four of the five were found in July.

Philadelphia Vireo: All: singles 1 Jun in *Sioux Center* *Sioux* (GBr), Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK) were the first summer reports since 2003 [ties 3rd latest].

Black-billed Magpie: Magpies nested again at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* but no specifics on numbers are available (Scott Moats fide JJD)

Bank Swallow: 200 on 27 Jul in *Pocahontas* (SJD) was the only large flock reported.

Cliff Swallow: 1,200 on 11 Jul at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* was early for such a large flock (SJD).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A pair with a fledgling 18 Jul at Hampton *Franklin* (SSP) and a brood from 21–31 Jul near Boone *Boone* (KJ) are Iowa's 7th and 8th nesting records and the 5th and 6th in the past four years. Other reports were singles 2 Jun in *Algona* *Kossuth* (MCK) and 5 Jun in *Ames* *Story* (Jim Pease fide SJD).

Carolina Wren: Reported from 7 counties (m.ob.) all in the se half of Iowa, its usual range.

Bewick's Wren: A pair with 2 yg was in Centerville *Appanoose* 7–14 Jun (DT, RLC).

Sedge Wren: Reported from 13 counties covering much of Iowa exclusive of the s third of the state (m.ob.). The 85 reported 14 Jun at Panicum Prairie *Worth* (SSP) is an impressive count.

Marsh Wren: Reported from 9 counties (m.ob.) with birds at Forney L *Fremont* (KDy, JG, MPR) the southernmost.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 on 2 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO-details) was Iowa's first summer record since 1972.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Broods 27 Jun at Marble L *Dickinson* (SJD), 27 Jul near Bradgate *Humboldt* (SJD, JG) and 18 Jul at WKW Conservation P *Franklin* (SSP) confirmed nesting along the w boundary of its Iowa range.

Veery: Fewer reports than in most recent years. One or 2 were in *Dallas*, *Delaware*, *Hancock*, and *Winneshek* (BE, BSc, RGo, JB, DK) and 5 on 19 Jun were at Sny Magill WA *Clayton* (DK).

Swainson's Thrush: 18 on 1 Jun in *Kossuth* and 1 the same day at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MPR) but only 1 on 2 Jun in *Algona* *Kossuth* (MCK).

Wood Thrush: Found in 24 counties

covering most of Iowa (m.ob.); 12 on 14 Jun at Sharon Bluffs SP *Appanoose* (RLC) were the most.

Northern Mockingbird: Reported from 9 counties, all in the s half of Iowa. One 4 Jul at Marietta Sand Prairie *Marshall* (SJD) was the northernmost report.

Cedar Waxwing: Patterson found nests or broods in *Franklin, Johnson, Tama,* and *Winnebago*, all in mid- or late July. We know little about the time of breeding of this somewhat nomadic species.

Blue-winged Warbler: Few reports; 2–5 were found in *Appanoose, Boone, Monona,* and *Winneshiek* (DT, LGD, TLu, DC).

Tennessee Warbler: Seven reports in early June but other than 2 at Jester P *Polk* (JB), 3 at L Meyer *Winneshiek* (Larry Reis fide DC), and 4 at Grammer Grove P *Marshall* (MPr), all on 1 Jun, all were in *Kossuth*. Most: 39 on 1 Jun and last 2 on 5 Jun, both at *Algona Kossuth* (MCK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 on 1 Jun at Sioux Center *Sioux* (GBr-details) is the first modern June record for Iowa.

Nashville Warbler: 1 on 1 Jun at Oak Grove P *Sioux* (GBr).

Northern Parula: Reported from 13 counties, mostly in the se half of Iowa (m.ob.). The 14 males in late June/early July along the Des Moines R below Saylorville Dam *Polk* (SJD) were more than expected in cen Iowa.

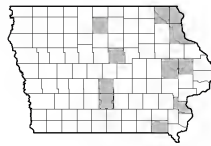
Chestnut-sided Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK) and 2 males during June in Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (DK).

Magnolia Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK).

Blackburnian Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun at L Meyer *Winneshiek* (Larry Reis fide DC) was the first summer record since 1998.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 or 2 were found in 8 counties, mainly along major tributaries of the Mississippi R (m.ob.). One in Ames *Story* was a rare summer record in that well-birded county (Ross Conover fide SJD).

Blackpoll Warbler: All: 2 on 1 Jun at A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK) and 2 on 1 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) were the first summer records since 2003.



Cerulean Warbler: Up to 10 were found in 11 counties mostly in the se half of Iowa (m.ob.).

Black-and-white Warbler: All: singles 16 Jun at Lansing WA *Allamakee* (SJD) and 11 Jul at L Ahquabi SP *Warren* (MPr).

American Redstart: Underreported but probably found in most woodlands across the state. The 118, mostly males, found in late June/early July along the Des Moines R below Saylorville Dam *Polk* (SJD) indicate how common this species can be.

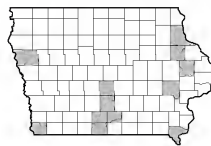
Prothonotary Warbler: Reports from only 4 counties. The 13 adults and two nesting attempts in late June/early July along the Des Moines R below the Saylorville Dam *Polk* (SJD) were more than expected there. One 27 Jul near Bradgate *Humboldt* (SJD, JG) was out of its usual range.

Worm-eating Warbler: All: 1 on 18 Jun at Coyote Canyon *Clarke* was called a “one-day wonder” (AB).

Ovenbird: Underreported with 1–4 found in 7 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob.).

Northern Waterthrush: All: 1 on 1 Jun A.A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK).

Louisiana Waterthrush: 1–3 were found in 12 counties, mostly in the se half of Iowa (m.ob.) but north to *Woodbury* (TLu, GLV) in the west.



Kentucky Warbler: Mostly singles in Appanoose, Clayton, Decatur, Kentucky, Lee, Lucas, and Mills (m.ob.). Two broods were found 15 Jul in Stephens SF Lucas (AB).

Connecticut Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun at A.A. Call SP Kossuth (MCK) and 1 on 7, 8 Jun Algona Kossuth (MCK) [2nd latest].

Mourning Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun at Ada Hayden P Story (WO), 2 on 1 Jun at Algona Kossuth (MCK), and 1 on 5 Jun in Algona (MCK).

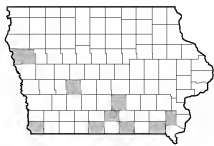
Hooded Warbler: From 1–3 were found in Allamakee, Johnson, and Lee (SJD, CRE, JG).

Wilson's Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun near Cresco Howard (DC) [ties 2nd latest].

Canada Warbler: All: 1 on 1 Jun A.A. Call SP Kossuth (MCK).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Mostly singles in 7 counties, all in the s half of Iowa (m.ob.).

Summer Tanager: As many as 5 were found in 9 counties (m.ob.), all in the s half of Iowa except for 3 on 7 Jun in Woodbury (TLu, GLV).



Scarlet Tanager: As many as 10 were found in 23 counties (m.ob.), covering all except nw Iowa.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Six males and 2 females 18 Jun and 2 broods 5 Jul in Danville Twp Worth (SSP) add to the growing evidence of breeding by this species in n Iowa.

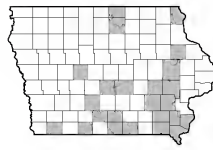
Lark Sparrow: 1–4 were found in 16 counties (m.ob.) scattered across all but ne Iowa (m.ob.).

Savannah Sparrow: 1 on 4 Jul at Kellerton Grasslands Ringgold (JG) was south of its usual Iowa range.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Found in 21 counties scattered across all except ne Iowa (m.ob.). Counts of 20 in Adair (DTh) and

27 near Gabrielson WMA Hancock (SSP) indicate its abundance in good habitat.

Henslow's Sparrow: Reported from 25 counties covering all except the nw quarter of Iowa (m.ob.). The 17 males found at Medicine Creek A Wayne (AB) give an indication of how common it can be in suitable habitat.



Swamp Sparrow: All reports were from the n half of Iowa where it is expected (m.ob.).

White-throated Sparrow: All: 1 on 15 Jun at Smith WA Kossuth had been present since late May (MCK, Kenne 2008) was the first summer report since 1997.

Blue Grosbeak: In w Iowa, reported from Woodbury south to Fremont and Page where it is expected (m.ob.). A male 21 Jun at Brushy Creek RA Webster (SJD) was east of its usual range.

PAINTED BUNTING: A male found in May in Ames Story (Kenne 2008) was last reported 1 Jun (KDy). The area it frequented was flooded in early June.

Dickcissel: Few comments but very common in sw Iowa (KDy, DTh) and rare in ne Iowa (DC).

Bobolink: Most observers indicated it was fairly common. A few found near the Missouri border in Appanoose, Fremont, Jefferson, Page, and Taylor (JG, DCP, KVS) were south of its n Iowa strongholds.

Eastern Meadowlark: Reports of birds in Harrison, Pottawattamie, Shelby, and Woodbury (JG, TLu) in far w Iowa suggest that it is expanding its range westward.

Western Meadowlark: 1 on 19 Jun near Davenport Scott (WMZ) was at the e extreme of its Iowa range.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: A pair at South Sycamore Bottoms Johnson (MHB) was at a new potential nesting location.

Great-tailed Grackle: Reported from 9 counties (m.ob.). Only the 7 at Big Bend WA Dallas (TLa) seemed to be at a new site.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Cowbird parasitism of Red-eyed Vireo and Northern Cardinal nests was noted in *Franklin* (SSP).

Orchard Oriole: A few were found in 11 counties scattered across the state (m.ob.).

Red Crossbill: All: 4 on 2 Jun and 7 on 8 Jun in Cherokee *Cherokee* (DBi), a male 4 Jul in Colfax *Jasper* (KVS), and 5 on 17 Jul in Hanlontown *Worth* (Shannon Redinger fide RGo). Crossbills were at the Cherokee site throughout May (Kenne 2008).

Pine Siskin: All: 2 on 1, 7 Jun in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (DP) and a female 18 Jul at Hampton *Franklin* (SSP).

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Bell's Vireo, Wickiup Natural Area, Linn, 1 June 2008. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



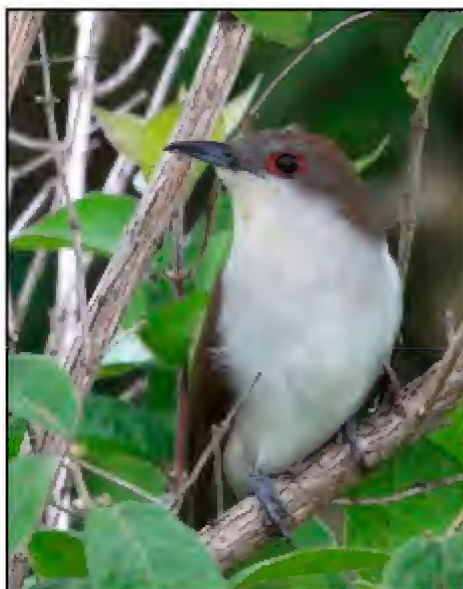
Willow Flycatcher, Wickiup Natural Area, Linn, 1 June 2008. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Great-tailed Grackle, male, South Sycamore Bottoms, Johnson, 1 June 2008. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Sedge Wren, Colo Ponds, Story, 4 July 2008. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Black-billed Cuckoo, Riverton WMA, Fremont, 12 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



One of two Upland Sandpiper parents with three fledglings found in Franklin, 7 June 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



One of three Upland Sandpiper fledglings found in Franklin, 7 June 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

Common Nighthawk parent sitting on nestling on the roof of Pioneer, Johnston, Polk, 3 July 2008. Although a familiar summer bird in Iowa, some observers believe that Common Nighthawk populations are declining. Because few observers actually report them, there is not enough information gathered in the summer that might provide a better understanding of their current status. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA, who photo-documented the nesting cycle progress. See next photos.



Common Nighthawk 5-6-day old nestling on the roof of Pioneer, Johnston, Polk, 7 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Common Nighthawk 17-18-day old nestling starting to get a tail and nearly ready to fledge, on the roof of Pioneer, Johnston, Polk, 19 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Second documented White-faced Ibis nesting in Iowa, nestling in nest at Forney Lake, Fremont, 12 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



From left to right, immature White-faced Ibis, adult White-faced Ibis, adult Glossy Ibis at Forney Lake, Fremont, 12 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Adult White-faced Ibis (left) with adult Glossy Ibis at Forney Lake, Fremont, 12 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

Summer Season: A 25-Year Perspective

James J. Dinsmore

I wrote my first summary of the summer season for this journal in 1984. Thus, the report on the preceding pages is the 25th such report I have been involved with. Other than the 1994 report, which I coauthored with Stephen J. Dinsmore, I have been responsible for all of those reports. A lot can happen in 25 years. When I wrote my first report in 1984, Iowa's first bird book in 50 years (Dinsmore et al. 1984) had just been published, and the first Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project wouldn't start collecting data until 1985. Reports of rare birds were telephoned to a message recording machine in Amana maintained by Carl Bendorf. The internet wasn't around, few people had personal computers, and gasoline wasn't as expensive as it is now.

The field reports for all of the seasons are dependent on birders reporting their sightings to the seasonal compilers. The compilers in turn each write a report in which they try to make some sense of what happened during the season that they cover. I thought it would be interesting to take it one step further and try to summarize some of the more interesting information that has been accumulated about Iowa's birds during the last 25 summer seasons.

With that in mind, I have reviewed the 25 reports, noting interesting sightings, changes in status and distribution of various species, and other information that I thought might be of interest to the readers of this journal. What I hope to accomplish with this paper is to provide an overview of those reports and a summary of some of the more interesting stories that are contained in them. The examples that follow are based largely on material contained in the summer season reports although in a few cases information from other seasons is also included to help clarify a particular example.

RESULTS

By my count, 279 species (161 nonpasserines, 118 passerines) have been mentioned in the 25 reports. Several other species, whose reports were later rejected by the Records Committee, have been excluded from those totals. Of the 279, 47 were reported all 25 years, and another 27 species were reported 24 of the 25 years. Among species that are uncommon or rare in summer in Iowa, 30 were reported only one year, and another 13 in only two years. Another 26 species (five nonpasserines, 21 passerines) are found yearly in summer in Iowa but because of their commonness, were never mentioned in the field reports. This gives a total of at least 305 species that have occurred in Iowa at least once in summer from 1984–2008.

NESTING SPECIES

For most of Iowa's breeding birds, the two-month summer season is the heart of their nesting season. Thus, during my tenure as field reports editor, I have emphasized reports of Iowa's nesting birds and especially those whose status seems to be changing or that are found only in part of Iowa.

First Reports of Nesting

Eleven species were added to the list of Iowa's known nesting species based on reports published in the summer season summaries. These include Cattle Egret (1984), Little Blue Heron (1984), White-faced Ibis (1986), Red Crossbill (1986), House Finch (1986), Eurasian Tree Sparrow (1993), Prairie Warbler (1995), Red-necked Grebe (1998), Eurasian Collared-Dove (2001), Pine Warbler (2004), and American White Pelican (2007). Two other species were found nesting in Iowa after long absences: Sandhill Crane in 1992 after a 98-year absence and Black-billed Magpie in 2005 after 67 years.

Species That Have Established Nesting Populations

Nine species that were not established in Iowa in 1984 seem to have established nesting populations in the ensuing 25 years. Five of those formerly had nested in Iowa and have reestablished nesting populations. In 1984, a single pair of Bald Eagles was nesting in Iowa. Since then the population has increased dramatically and now they are found statewide. Sandhill Cranes were first found nesting in 1992 and the population has shown steady growth as it has gradually expanded its Iowa nesting range. Three other species have established small but somewhat stable breeding populations in the state. Double-crested Cormorants have been found nesting at several sites, mostly on or near the Mississippi River. Two species that have received federal attention because of their rarity have small populations in western Iowa. Piping Plovers (Threatened) resumed nesting in Iowa in 1983 and Least Terns (Endangered) in 1984. Since then, they have nested most years at sites near Council Bluffs and Sioux City. Reports from numerous observers chronicle the yearly status of these small breeding colonies in Iowa. Finally, four species that apparently did not nest in Iowa previously have established small breeding populations in the state. Great-tailed Grackles were first found in southwestern Iowa in 1983 and nested there that year. They nested at a second site in 1984 and since then have rapidly expanded their range. They now nest at numerous sites north to the Minnesota border. A few Mississippi Kites are found yearly in urban Des Moines, a single Ring-billed Gull colony seems established near Spirit Lake, and a few Black-billed Magpies have been nesting in Plymouth County for several years.

Nesting Reported But Nesting Populations Not Established

Along with the expected nesting species, summer reports also include reports of nesting by some unexpected species. At least 13 such species (American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Western Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eared Grebe, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, White-faced Ibis, King Rail, Burrowing Owl, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Red Crossbill) have been reported nesting, in some cases only a single time, but as of yet have not become established in Iowa. Both King Rail and Burrowing Owl have a long history of nesting in Iowa but in recent years have not been regular in their occurrence here. After an unsuccessful attempt in 2005, another species, American White Pelican, first nested successfully in Iowa in 2007 and again in 2008. It is too soon to evaluate the long-term success of that colonization. In recent years, Clay-colored Sparrows have been found in several sites across northern Iowa with evidence of nesting reported several times and apparently at least a few nest in Iowa yearly.

Nonnative Species

Three nonnative species have occupied Iowa over the past 25 years. House Finches were first found in Iowa in 1982 and nesting was first reported in 1986. For about the next decade, its rapid range expansion was often mentioned in these reports, and by 1995 the species occupied most of Iowa (Cecil and Dinsmore 1995). Eurasian Tree Sparrows were first found in Iowa in 1987. By the early 1990s a small population was established near the Mississippi River in Des Moines County where nesting was first reported in 1993 (Cecil 2002). Nearly all reports continue to come from southeastern Iowa. Eurasian Collared-Doves were first found in Iowa in 1997 and in the ensuing years, reports of the rapid range expansion of this species were frequently mentioned in the reports. Nesting was reported in Kossuth County in 2001. By early 2004, it had been found in 29 counties (Cecil 2004). Including reports from all seasons, it has been reported in about 85 of Iowa's 99 counties.

Introduced Species

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has introduced individuals of nine species to Iowa in recent decades. Two of those (Canada Goose, Wild Turkey) were well established by 1984, and by 1990 were found statewide. The reintroduction programs for the other seven have been more active over the past 25 years, and their progress has been updated regularly in the summer reports. The attempt to reestablish Sharp-tailed Grouse apparently has been unsuccessful, and releases of Barn Owls have not been successful in augmenting Iowa's existing small population. Releases of five other species have had some success. A small population of Greater Prairie-Chickens seems to be tenuously established in southern Iowa, and a few Ruffed Grouse have persisted at several release sites in southeastern and south-central Iowa. Trumpeter Swans, Peregrine Falcons, and Ospreys all have had some nesting success in recent years and seem to be close to their restoration goals in Iowa. Contributors to the summer season reports have provided updates on the status of these programs.

Species That Have Done Well

The summer reports provide a record for several species that seem to have thrived over the past 25 years. Perhaps the most successful of these is Henslow's Sparrow, a species considered very rare in Iowa in 1984. I received no reports of Henslow's Sparrow for the summers of 1984 and 1985. From 1986 through 1998, I had reports from only 15 counties, mostly from the three southern rows of counties, and many from a single site in Van Buren County. From 1999–2008, Henslow's Sparrows were reported in 53 counties covering all except west-central and far northwestern Iowa. It is unclear whether observers have become more familiar with the faint "song" of this reclusive species or if the species has had a real population increase. In either case, we now know that it is much more common than formerly feared.

Several other species also have thrived. In 1984, Iowa's only Bald Eagle nest was in Allamakee County. By 2008, nests had been found in 83 counties and at least 210 nest sites were known in the state. In 1984 and the years shortly thereafter, few nests of Coopers, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged hawks were reported in Iowa. In recent years, all three of these woodland hawks have been reported more frequently and from far more counties

than in the past. In particular, Cooper's Hawk has become known for nesting in urban areas and also seems to have expanded its range considerably from its historic strongholds in eastern and northeastern Iowa. With the increased interest in prairie restoration and the advent of the Conservation Reserve Program, several grassland species including Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Dickcissel seem to have done well in recent years.

Species That Have Done Poorly

Several of Iowa's nesting species seem to be doing poorly and, as indicated by their declining presence in the summer field reports, may be on the verge of disappearing from the state. Never very abundant in Iowa, reports of nesting Swainson's Hawks have been nearly nonexistent in recent years. Loggerhead Shrikes, although still reported regularly, seem to be much less common now than in the mid-1980s. It is hard to believe that one observer in a single Iowa county found more than 70 shrike nests in 1988 and 86 nests in 1989. While Yellow-billed Cuckoos continue to be reported regularly, reports of Black-billed Cuckoo seem to have declined. The last reports of nesting Long-eared and Short-eared owls in Iowa were in 1988 and 1995 respectively. Both Black and Forster's terns, which were commonly reported as nesting in northern Iowa in the early 1980s, now seem less common, even with the increase in public wetland areas in Iowa. And a bird as familiar as the Northern Bobwhite seems to have disappeared from parts of its southern Iowa range, a story that has been repeated in numerous other states.

Nomadic Species

Three species that normally nest in the boreal forest far north of Iowa but that occasionally nest in Iowa seem to have somewhat sporadic nesting patterns. With 25 years of reports to review, it is possible to take a longer-term view of the less-than-annual invasions by these three species. Red Crossbills have been found in at least eight of the past 25 summers with a total of 20 reports. In 1986, young birds were seen in Des Moines, the only confirmed record of nesting in Iowa by this species. In one of those eight years (1996), the state had one of the largest influxes of Red Crossbills on record with birds being found in at least six counties and the flight continuing on into August (Fuller 1998). Red-breasted Nuthatches have been found in five summers, and nesting was reported in 2005, 2007, and 2008. The summer 2007 reports followed a massive influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches into Iowa in 2006–2007, and three broods were found. Finally, Pine Siskins have been found in 15 summers with nesting reported one summer.

MIGRANTS

The summer season is typically not thought of as a time when migration occurs, but in fact a number of migrants move through Iowa during June and July. These include both species whose spring migration extends into June and fall migrants that start arriving in Iowa in late June or July. Reports from around Iowa over the past 25 years have helped define patterns for several of these species.

Late Spring Migrants

Late spring migrants largely consist of shorebirds and various species of flycatchers,

vireos, thrushes, warblers, and sparrows. Among the latter, at least four flycatcher, two vireo, two thrush, 16 warbler, and six sparrow species that don't nest in Iowa have occurred at least once in June. Species that have been found in at least half of the 25 years include four flycatchers (Olive-sided: 20 years, Yellow-bellied: 22, Alder: 24, Least: 25), Swainson's Thrush (13 years), and three warblers (Tennessee: 16 years, Mourning: 18, Canada: 14). Least Flycatcher and perhaps Canada Warbler are somewhat of an enigma as some of those reports may involve birds that nest in Iowa (see Discussion below).

Shorebirds are an important component of the migrant birds found during summer. Excluding nesting species, about 24 species of shorebirds are regular migrants in Iowa. Of these, 19 have been found in Iowa in early June. In particular, Semipalmated and White-rumped sandpipers tend to be late migrants with at least a few found yearly into early June. Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper have been reported several times throughout June and presumably at least occasionally summer in Iowa. Black Terns are also a late spring migrant with some birds still moving through Iowa in early June.

Prior to 2007, I would have said that hawks had completed their migration before June. However, in early June of both 2007 and 2008, small groups of Broad-winged Hawks were detected heading north in northern Iowa. We still have things to learn.

Early Fall Migrants

In contrast to the numerous late spring migrants, only a few southbound perching birds have been found in mid- to late July. These include single reports of Olive-sided and Alder flycatchers, Tennessee and Bay-breasted warblers; Nashville Warbler in two years; and Blue-headed Vireo in three years. Mid-July reports of White-throated Sparrow (1984, 1987) and Dark-eyed Junco (1987) were more likely summering birds rather than early migrants. Two reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch in late July 2006 were the first signs of a major influx that fall.

By late June, a few southbound shorebirds typically start arriving in Iowa and by mid-July, fall migration is well underway. If good habitat is available, hundreds of shorebirds of a variety of species can be found. Several other waterbirds have well-defined southbound migration patterns that start in the summer. These include the American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Ring-billed and Franklin's gulls, and Caspian and Black terns, all of which generally start arriving in July. In recent years the number of American White Pelicans arriving in July in particular seems to be increasing.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Summer is generally considered a poor time to find Casual or Accidental species in Iowa. Over the 25 years, however, Iowa's birders have added four new species to the state list based on birds found during summer, and a number of other very rare birds have been found during summer. The new species are Black-necked Stilt (1984), MacGillivray's Warbler (1995), Baird's Sparrow (2004), and Mottled Duck (2006). A Rufous Hummingbird in 1986 was the state's second record, a Neotropic Cormorant in 2007 was Iowa's third, and a Swallow-tailed Kite in 2004 was the third for Iowa since 1931. Other rare birds that have appeared in Iowa during the summer include Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (2005, 2008),

Yellow-billed Loon (2008), Brown Pelican (2005), Tricolored Heron (2008), Glossy Ibis (2008), Black Vulture (2008), Black Rail (1994), Purple Gallinule (1988, 1994), Snowy Plover (1997), Black-necked Stilt (1984, 2004, 2008), Long-billed Curlew (1990), Ruff (2006), California Gull (2007), Say's Phoebe (1987), Vermilion Flycatcher (2005), Lazuli Bunting (1996), and Painted Bunting (2006, 2007, 2008). Species that are not quite so rare for Iowa but unexpected for summer include Cinnamon Teal (1986, 2003), White-winged Scoter (1988), Long-tailed Duck (1990), Red-throated Loon (1999, 2006), Pacific Loon (1994, 2001), Red Knot (1995), Sabine's Gull (1997), and Western Tanager (1997). And finally, a Black-headed Gull first seen at the north end of Spirit Lake in 1996, has been seen somewhere near there yearly since then. Summer months are not as boring as some people think they might be.

DISCUSSION

The summer season is a great time for birding in Iowa. Although many birders decrease their activities in late May, they are missing out on some great birding opportunities. Only a few weeks after the last of the northbound shorebirds have left the state, the first southbound birds start arriving. Although good shorebird habitat may be hard to find in July, a small patch of sheet water may provide great shorebird watching for weeks.

The second Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project, which has just completed its first year of collecting data, adds another incentive for summer birding. There are easily hundreds of places in Iowa (e.g., state parks, newly acquired state areas, seldom-visited county areas) that are seldom birded. The atlas project should provide the incentive for more birders to get out and bird some of those areas.

And finally, I have a few perplexing questions related to the nesting status of several Iowa species. Although the 25 reports contain information on all four, I think we still don't have a decent understanding of the following species in Iowa.

The top species on that list is Least Flycatcher. Every year, at least a few Least Flycatchers are found in Iowa in early June, mainly in northern Iowa. Presumably most of these birds are simply late migrants, but there were two confirmed reports of nesting in northeastern Iowa in the first Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project. As yet we have no knowledge of anyplace in Iowa where this species reliably nests.

It is a similar story for Canada Warbler. They have been found in about half of the summers, often at one or two sites such as White Pine Hollow in Dubuque County and sometimes as late as late June. Some of these birds seem to be territorial but as yet no one has found evidence of nesting. Canada Warblers nest as close as Minnesota and southern Wisconsin so it seems possible that they could nest in Iowa as well.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is another mystery. This species was found nesting along the Des Moines River on the north side of Des Moines from 1957 to 1961 but after that, although a few including recently fledged young were seen in most years, there were no definitive reports of nesting until 2006 when a nest was found in Chickasaw County. A few pairs probably nest somewhere in Iowa most summers but again no reliable nesting site has yet been discovered.

Finally the Black-and-white Warbler is another mystery species. A common migrant in Iowa, one or two are reported most summers, especially in southern Iowa. Evidence of

nesting was noted in Warren County in 2002 and 2007 and perhaps in Dickinson County in 1988. It is not clear whether these are just isolated nesting attempts or represent small nesting populations in Iowa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

After 25 years, I have a lot of people to acknowledge. I haven't tried to tabulate the amount of material I have received, but collectively hundreds of individuals have sent in thousands of reports of their sightings. A few of those individuals have faithfully provided material all 25 years. In addition, I have solicited information about a few species from knowledgeable individuals, especially several in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Two individuals have been leaders in upgrading these reports. Tom Kent advocated more rigorous review of reports to the Records Committee. Ann Johnson has advanced the use of computer technology so that most field observations are now reported to and sorted at a website, making my job much easier. She also has made it possible for the Records Committee to review unusual sightings quickly, making the field reports more timely and accurate. Paul Hertzell made me aware of the State of Iowa's monthly weather reports, which have aided me greatly in summarizing that information in the field reports. Steve Dinsmore coauthored one of the summer season reports with me and has provided numerous comments over the years. In general, the field reports editors receive little feedback except when they mess something up. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that virtually every year I have received a postcard from one faithful reporter who always says nice things about the summer field report. Thanks Mark Proescholdt. And my sincerest thanks to all of the above individuals for your contributions. Without you, these 25 reports would not have been possible.

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Yellow-billed Loon in Tama County: First Summer Record for Iowa

Stephen J. Dinsmore and James J. Dinsmore

On 15 July 2008, Sean Williams discovered a loon on a farm pond in Crystal Township between Traer and Gladbrook in northern Tama County. Knowing that this was an unusual summer bird in Iowa, he took two photos with his cell phone and reported the bird to his father, Kevin Williams, who relayed the report to us. Sean returned to the pond on 19 July and found the bird dead there, but was unable to retrieve the carcass. Kevin, who is Director of the Grundy County Conservation Board, contacted us in late July and forwarded the photos, which we recognized as those of a Yellow-billed Loon. The massive bill with a pale distal portion, pale head with a dark auricular mark, and ladder-backed appearance eliminated other loon species from consideration. The bird appeared to be in heavily worn plumage, and perhaps this condition contributed to its demise. The photos suggested that the bird was probably in first alternate plumage, but this was difficult to ascertain because the photos were low resolution. This represents the fourth record of a Yellow-billed Loon in Iowa, the first in summer, and provides an interesting example of how technology (cell phones with cameras) allowed us to document a rare bird that might otherwise have been overlooked as a Common Loon.

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Tricolored Heron at Forney Lake

Keith Dyché

On the evening of 11 July 2008, I was at Forney Lake in Fremont County watching the heron colony. There were hundreds of Cattle Egrets along with Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, White-faced Ibis, Glossy Ibis, and others as they came in to roost that evening. Most of the birds were coming in from the southwest. As I was scoping, I picked out a heron with dark flight feathers with contrasting white underparts and wing linings. I quickly identified

the bird as a Tricolored Heron. The bird's flight was steady and direct as it flew towards the roosting area. The bird attempted to land three times before it settled down, allowing good views as it landed. After a few minutes, the bird flew off and headed southwest toward the railroad tracks where a lot of birds had been feeding. Approximately twenty minutes later, the bird flew back and landed in the roosting area in the middle of the cattails.

This is the sixth time a Tricolored Heron has been reported in Iowa, and the second report of a Tricolored Heron at Forney Lake. The first was reported 25–28 May 2001 (Padelford and Padelford 2001). The second sighting was at the Mid-American Energy settling ponds in Pottawattamie County on 4 May 1992 (Greer 1992). One was seen in Page County in August 2007 (Dyche 2007).

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Glossy Ibis at Forney Lake

Keith Dyche

While birding the area around Forney Lake on 9 July 2008, I observed a Glossy Ibis feeding with a group of White-faced Ibis near the railroad tracks west of Forney Lake. Several other birders observed the glossy that day.



Figure 1. Glossy Ibis, seventh Iowa record, Forney Lake, Fremont, 12 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

On 10 July, I observed a pair of glossies in the same area. On 11 July, two pairs of Glossy

Ibis were feeding with the White-faced Ibis. As the feeding areas started to dry up, the birds moved further away from the roads to feed, making it hard to tell the glossy from the White-faced Ibis as they fed.

A glossy was photographed circling the nesting area on 12 July by Jay Gillam (Figure 1) and Steve Dinsmore. We were checking on the nesting White-faced Ibis and Black-Crowned Night-Heron at the time.

As the summer went on, it was harder to tell the glossy and White-faced Ibis apart. I observed a glossy in the nesting area on 27 July, and Ross Silcock observed the Glossy Ibis feeding north of the main marsh on 10 August.

I never saw a glossy on a nest or feeding young in the rookery. There is a possibility that the glossies could have nested in the area.

This is the second sighting of a glossy in Fremont County in 2008. The first sighting was on 18 May at Riverton WA; it was in the company of six White-faced Ibis.

Fremont County was also the site of the second Glossy Ibis in the state 18–20 May 1995 at Riverton WA (Kent, Fuller, and Tetrault 1995).

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Glossy Ibis in Tama County

Stephen J. Dinsmore and Jay Gilliam

On 29 June 2008, we stopped to scan a large flock of egrets feeding in a shallow flooded field 0.5 miles east of Chelsea, *Tama*. At 7:15 A.M., we spotted a *Plegadis* feeding with several Great Egrets (Figure 1). The bird was easily identified as this genus because of its heron-like shape, coloration, and decurved bill. We estimated the bird was a little more than half the size of a Great Egret. The coloration was distinctive—a maroon head, neck, breast, and mantle that contrasted with the darker purplish/iridescent wings and tail. The bill was long, evenly decurved, and a dull gray-brown color. The eye was dark from every lighting angle. We carefully studied the facial pattern, which we described as “classic” for an adult Glossy Ibis. The facial skin was dark gray and was bordered by a narrow band of bluish feathers that was broken behind the eye. This border was thickest across the base of the



Figure 1. Glossy Ibis, sixth Iowa record, east of Chelsea, Tama, 29 June 2008. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

upper mandible. The legs were gray and lacked any obvious red color, especially at the joints. On the basis of body color and face pattern, we concluded the bird was an adult Glossy Ibis in alternate plumage. We watched the bird until 7:53 A.M., but it was gone when we checked the area again that evening. This represents the sixth record of a Glossy Ibis for Iowa and is even more unusual because it was seen in mid-summer.

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Black Vulture in Louisa County

Chuck Fuller

On Saturday morning, 12 July 2008, I was birding Louisa County in the flooded Iowa River bottomlands. Many roads were closed in the Indian Slough, Port Louisa, and Horseshoe Bend areas. One open road was along the bluff on County X-61. Approximately one-half mile south of the Port Louisa Refuge Headquarters on the west side of Lake Odessa, a single vulture-like bird was circling directly overhead at 10 A.M. The field marks were unmistakable. The general shape was stockier and with broader wings than that of a Turkey Vulture. However, the two most obvious marks were the very short fan-like tail and the silver lining at the base of the primaries. The head was dark. The bird slowly circled and drifted in a northeasterly direction toward the Mississippi River and disappeared. I searched the area for another hour and could not relocate the bird. By that time there were

many Turkey Vultures in the air. Subsequent birders had no luck either. This is the seventh record in Iowa and the first for the summer season.

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

Half of the December 1958 issue consisted of an article by Fred Kent and Robert Vane describing a pair of nesting Whip-poor-wills they found near Amana in Iowa County. They found the nest during the egg stage and studied it until the young were 7 and 11 days old. Featuring some great photos of the nest and the birds, the authors described various stages of the nest cycle in greater detail than probably anyone else has ever done in Iowa.

In a second article, Myrle Jones described an encounter he and Dennis Carter had with several Bohemian Waxwings feeding on the fruits of multiflora rose in Dickinson County. Jones also reviewed back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* and found a total of 17 references from 1931 through 1958 involving Bohemian Waxwings, suggesting it was a fairly rare species in that era. Unfortunately, Bohemian Waxwings have almost disappeared from Iowa for the past several decades and many current members have not seen one here.

Among the shorter notes, James Hodges described an invasion of White-winged Crossbills, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Pine Siskins in southeastern Iowa during the winter of 1957–1958, and Dennis Carter described the birds he found while canoeing the Des Moines River in Hamilton County on 3 June 1958.

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Fall Business Meeting

13 September 2008

The IOU fall business meeting was held at Calkins Nature Center, Iowa Falls. President John Rutenbeck called the meeting to order at 3:12 P.M. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Paul Roisen, vice president; Cathy Konrad, secretary; John Bissell, Bill Scheible, and Tom Schilke, board members; and members of the organization.

President John Rutenbeck reported IOU Board approval of Pam Allen as new membership coordinator. This action was taken 29 May by e-mail; motion by Ken Lowder, seconded by Bill Scheible, and motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Cathy Konrad reported that the minutes from the spring 2008 business meeting were published in *IBL* 78(2):107–109. It was moved by Cathy Konrad and seconded by Hank Zaletel to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: John Rutenbeck presented information from the IOU Profit and Loss Statement January through August 2008 prepared by Treasurer Doug Hunt. Total income of \$30,416.08 and total expense of \$27,779.25 was reported. The complete statement will be published in *IBL*. It was moved by Hank Zaletel and seconded by Judy Garton that the report be accepted. All ayes, motion carried.

Membership Report: John Rutenbeck presented information prepared by Pam Allen. There are currently 438 paid members. Thirty-three new members have joined so far this year.

Records Committee: Ann Johnson reported that all but one record is finished through the summer submissions. The committee will be recommending a new member as Aaron Brees will be rotating off the committee. The committee plans to write a guideline to assist members with writing a good sighting documentation.

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that all publications are on schedule. Coordinating a quarterly newsletter with fall and spring IOU meetings presents a challenge. IOU website challenges such as attempted hacking are being dealt with.

Membership Committee: Karen Disbrow reported that T-shirts continue to be discussed. The IOU display board is available for loan at appropriate functions. No further brochures are currently being printed to keep costs down.

Projects Committee: Chris Caster reviewed projects that have been approved thus far in 2008 (previously reported in *IBL* 78[2]) spring business and board minutes. The commit-

tee is moving the request submission deadline to 1 November so the amount requested will be available at the winter budget meeting.

Library/Historical Committee: Hank Zaletel reported that a collection of antique glass lantern bird slides were donated by the Wendelburg family in honor of their mother, a founding member of the Des Moines Audubon society and IOU. This collection is housed in the Iowa State University Archives.

Travel/Trip Committee: President John Rutenbeck reported that cochairs of this committee, Mike Johnston and Linda Donelson, have requested that this committee remain ad hoc. Linda Donelson is currently out of the country for a year with her husband, who is on sabbatical.

OLD BUSINESS

Breeding Bird Atlas Project: Nikki Nagl thanked IOU for the work completed by members so far. She reported 360 blocks have been worked, which is about halfway through the blocks. Nikki is still talking to interested groups and requests that IOU assist in spreading the word that help is needed for this project.

Central Iowa Birding Trail: Doug Harr reported on status of the Central Iowa Birding Trail. Brochures about this trail were delayed due to the flood and should be published this fall.

NEW BUSINESS

Member dues increase proposal by IOU Board: President John Rutenbeck reminded the membership that a dues increase had been discussed at the spring 2008 meeting business meeting. The board recommended an increase to fully cover the cost of publications. Ann Johnson, publications chair, reported that publication costs are \$29 per member to support *IBL*, *IOU News*, and the Iowa Birds and Birding Web site. The IOU membership is \$20 at the basic Goldfinch level, which is 60% of the membership. These publications directly support the IOU mission. President Rutenbeck presented data on the dues of other birding unions in the Midwest ranging from \$15 to \$30.

IOU total current assets of approximately \$60,000 allow IOU to subsidize the organization's publications; however, a significant portion of the IOU reserve comes from one-time memorial bequests targeted for special projects. IOU has used unrestricted reserve funds to support publications for the past two years. Having to continue to take publication operating funds from unrestricted reserve funds reduces other useful projects that can be done with these funds. Hank Zaletel reported that since 1960 there have been only five memorial bequests so the organization should not allow the restricted bequest funds to be spent for annual operating expenses.

Discussion was held regarding ways to save money on publications. One suggestion was an optional online *IBL* to reduce publishing costs. However, Editor Kay Niyo pointed out that the journal setup is the main cost, not the paper. To maintain some paper copies, which everyone agrees is necessary, the savings of an online *IBL* would be minimal and

administration very time-consuming. The pros and cons of accepting journal advertising were discussed. Several members offered the opinion that a dues increase was a necessary move that organizations need to make periodically to keep up with expenses.

Discussion continued until all members had a chance to ask questions if they chose. Paul Roisen moved and Maridel Jackson seconded a motion that dues be increased at the basic Goldfinch level from \$20 to \$30. Amendment to the motion by Steve Dinsmore to increase dues to only \$25 did not pass by a vote of 13 aye and 16 nay. Amendment to the motion by Jane Clark to increase institutional dues to \$50 did not pass by a vote of 2 aye and 28 nay. Original motion to increase dues at basic Goldfinch level from \$20 to \$30 a year passed with a vote of 27 in favor and 3 against. Motion carried.

Spring 2009 IOU Meeting: Paul Roisen previewed the spring 2009 meeting to be held at Swan Lake State Park 1–3 May.

Steve Dinsmore moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded and passed. The meeting concluded at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Konrad, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting

13 September 2008

The IOU fall board meeting was held at Calkins Nature Center, Iowa Falls, Iowa. President John Rutenbeck called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Paul Roisen, vice president; Cathy Konrad, secretary; John Bissell, Bill Scheible, and Tom Schilke, board members; Ann Johnson, Hank Zaletel, Chris Caster, committee members; Kay Niyo, *IBL* editor.

Cathy Konrad reported that the minutes from the spring 2008 business meeting were published in *IBL* 78(2):109–110.

Treasurer's Report: President John Rutenbeck reported that current total assets are \$64,565.47.

Committee Reports: none

Committee Appointments: Bill Scheible moved and John Bissell seconded that Keith

Dyche be appointed to the Projects Committee. All ayes, motion carried. Ann Johnson reported that the Records Committee appointment will be made at the 19 October 2008 committee meeting at which time she will e-mail the board for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Dues Increase: President Rutenbeck will assist Pam Allen in communicating to the membership about actual publications costs when dues statements go out.

Hitchcock Hawkwatch: Chris Caster reported that this project has been funded for the past two years at \$750 per year. This project will be reviewed annually.

Projects Reports: Hank Zaletel discussed the need to receive project reports from all grant recipients. Not only was this in the original agreement, but the reports would clearly communicate to the IOU membership what work was completed and would provide a written record for historical purposes. He volunteered to get updates or reports from groups to which we have given money and forward this information to Harley Winfrey for publication in the *IOU News*.

Tech Soup Software: Ann Johnson had previously e-mailed board members about the availability of software to nonprofit organizations at a very minimal cost. Ann has registered as Technology Agent on behalf of IOU.

It was moved by Tom Schilke and seconded by Paul Roisen that the meeting be adjourned. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Konrad, secretary

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring 2009: 1–3 May 2009, Swan Lake SP, Carroll

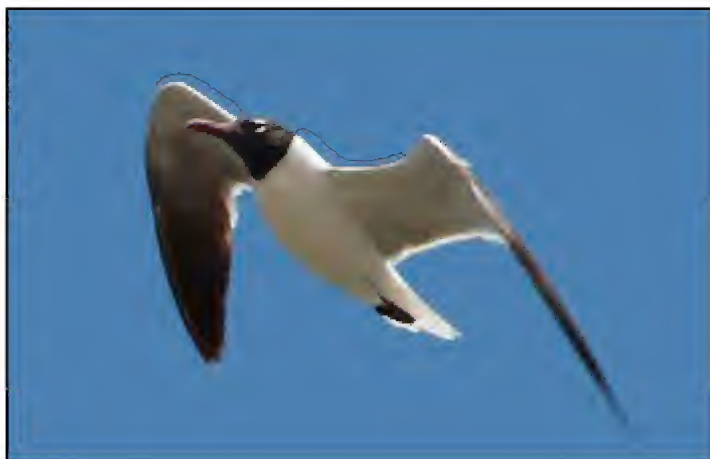
FRONT COVER PHOTO: Least Tern on nest with two eggs, MidAmerican Energy Ponds, *Pottawattamie*, 10 June 2008. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Adult Laughing Gull at Saylorville Reservoir, *Polk*, 11 July 2008. Photograph by Jay Gilliam.

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